

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In an tilt and telescopic position adjustable, impact absorbing type steering column apparatus for an automotive vehicle ~~in which~~ comprises:

~~an upper~~ an outer column; ~~is fitted to a lower column fixed to a car body so as to~~

an inner column fitted to said outer column so as to be telescopically slidable therein;

a fastening lock mechanism operable between a fastened state in which said fastening lock mechanism fastens fitting portions of said outer column and said inner column radially inwardly so that the steering column is fixed in an adjusted tilt and telescopic position and an unfastened state in which said outer column and said inner column are released so that said tilt and telescopic position is adjustable; and

an energy absorbing arrangement which absorbs ~~absorb~~ an impact energy upon a secondary collision ~~while~~

~~moving~~with movement of said ~~upper~~inner column towards a front side of the automotive vehicle,

an improvement characterized in that a low-friction material treatment is effected on one or both of slide surfaces of said fitting portions of said two columns so as to facilitate adjustment of the steering column.

2. (Currently Amended) An impact absorbing type steering column apparatus for an automotive vehicle according to claim 1, wherein said steering column apparatus is of an a column assist electric power steering type ~~of a column assist type.~~

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) In an a tilt and telescopic position adjustable, impact absorbing type steering column apparatus for an automotive vehicle ~~in which~~ comprises:

~~an upper~~an outer column; ~~is fitted to a lower column fixed to a car body so as to~~

an inner column fitted to said outer column so as to be telescopically slidable therein;

a fastening lock mechanism operable between a fastened state in which said fastening lock mechanism fastens fitting portions of said outer column and said inner column radially inwardly so that the steering column is fixed in an adjusted tilt and telescopic position and an unfastened state in which said outer column and said inner column are released so that said tilt and telescopic position is adjustable; and

an energy absorbing arrangement which absorbs~~absorb~~
an impact energy upon a secondary collision ~~while~~
moving with movement of said upper~~inner~~ column towards a front side of the automotive vehicle,

an improvement characterized in that a sleeve subjected to a low-friction material treatment is interposed between said fitting portions of said two columns so as to facilitate adjustment of the steering column.

5. (Previously Presented) An impact absorbing type steering column apparatus for an automotive vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the low-friction material treatment is one of baking of molybdenum disulfide, baking of fluororesin, baking of a mixture of molybdenum disulfide and fluororesin, coating of a ceramic, a metal

soap treatment, a low-friction plating treatment and coating of a lubricating agent.

6. (Previously Presented) An impact absorbing type steering column apparatus for an automotive vehicle according to claim 2, wherein the low-friction material treatment is one of baking of molybdenum disulfide, baking of fluororesin, baking of a mixture of molybdenum disulfide and fluororesin, coating of a ceramic, a metal soap treatment, a low-friction plating treatment and coating of a lubricating agent.

7. (Previously Presented) An impact absorbing type steering column apparatus for an automotive vehicle according to claim 3, wherein the low-friction material treatment is one of baking of molybdenum disulfide, baking of fluororesin, baking of a mixture of molybdenum disulfide and fluororesin, coating of a ceramic, a metal soap treatment, a low-friction plating treatment and coating of a lubricating agent.

8. (Currently Amended) An impact absorbing type steering column apparatus for an automotive vehicle according to ~~claims~~claim 4, wherein the low-friction

material treatment is one of baking of molybdenum disulfide, baking of fluororesin, baking of a mixture of molybdenum disulfide and fluororesin, coating of a ceramic, a metal soap treatment, a low-friction plating treatment and coating of a lubricating agent.